

REPLACEMENT PARAGRAPHS

[0005] United States Patent No. 5,954,761, issued to Machek (September 21, 1999), discloses a stimulation electrode having a fixing unit in the form of a stent. In that arrangement a conductor extends in the interior of the stent.

[0013] The entire surface of the wire item or one or more parts of the wire item, which are electrically insulated from each other, can be used as a stimulation pole, whether unipolar, bipolar or multipolar. In particular the electrodes can be of an elongate configuration corresponding to the course of a nerve, as is taught in German patent application 197 58 114 A1.

[0026] In the embodiment illustrated in Figure 1 the electrode 1 according to the invention includes a cylindrical wire unit 2.1 forming a bipolar reference electrode. The wire unit 2.1 comprises an electrically conductive, metallic wire item which is expandable, in the case of an elastic configuration being self-expandable. The flexible electrode feed line or probe 5 is terminated with a ring 5a forming a bipolar reference electrode. An electrical connection 3 is provided between the end of the electrically insulated feed line and the wire unit 2.1. It will be apparent that the wire unit 2.1 and the feed lines are arranged in succession in the axial direction. The interior of the cylindrical wire unit is completely free so that the flow of blood in the vessel is not impeded.

[0028] In the embodiment shown in Figure 3 - in contrast to the structure shown in Figure 2 - the guide wire 4.3 for the balloon 6.3 is not passed through the interior of the flexible electrode feed line or probe 5, forming the feed line.